

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1887.

A Wise Move.

The action of the New York, Lake Erie & Western Railroad in reducing fares to and from New York is worthy of more than passing notice. Books containing fifty tickets for use by families will now be sold for \$7.50, or 15 cents per ticket, making the excursion rate to New York and return 30 cents. It has formerly been 50 cents. To be sure this rate is not available to purchasers of single tickets, and other restrictions are added likely to be somewhat irksome. Yet after all, it is a substantial reduction, and as such should be hailed with satisfaction by the public at large.

It is to be hoped that experiments in this direction of lower fares will continue until at least a ten cent fare shall be realized, available at any time to all comers.

Nothing has so seriously retarded the growth of suburban neighborhoods as the heavy railroad charges. While New York and Brooklyn have prospered under the low fares obtainable on the Elevated and Bridge railways, the New Jersey roads have persevered in maintaining the old rates.

Such a policy is necessarily injurious not only to the towns reached by their carrying facilities but also to the railways themselves.

During the past four months the conveyances in New York have reached \$99,550,100; mortgages \$53,691,621, and new buildings \$33,587,565. At this rate over \$100,000,000 worth of new property will be created in New York the present year. The assessed real estate valuation in that city in 1880 was \$918,000,000. Assuming that it is now \$1,000,000,000 the increase will be about ten percent per annum, an enormous growth.

A very large share of this increase is due to new railway facilities and low fares.

Here, however, while much improvement in the roadbed, rolling stock, and depots of our railways has been made, the fares have been reduced very little or none at all.

Every movement in this direction indicated should be met by individual activity and public effort.

If tenants are to be secured houses must be built; good roads and side walks must be laid, and every method of social enjoyment made to minister to the comfort and happiness of the new-comers. A live town will have many friends. A way ought to be found to provide them with pleasant homes as fast as they arrive.

It ought also to be remembered that the way to secure lower fares is to patronize those who are the first to supply them. An increase of receipts is quite likely to lead to still greater reductions.

Church Music.

In a previous article we devoted some space to the setting forth of the importance of music as a part of the worship in the church. It was intimated in that article that teaching was as much a pre-requisite of good singing as of good preaching.

Most singers, players, and those that listen to them probably admit this in the abstract; but abstract principles not acted upon are like faith without works—dead. In the hopes of doing something towards fanning this feeble flame of belief into a blaze of works, we write this second article. Bloomfield has many churches and we trust we may not be thought hypercritical if we venture the opinion that while the music in some is better and in other worse, it might be improved in all.

To become proficient in mathematics, book-keeping, engineering, painting or other art or science, patient study and training is necessary; but when it comes to music many seem to think that Topsy-like they may grow into it. The assurance of some amateur musicians in afflicting a patient public with crude efforts is amazing. But no, upon second thought, it is not amazing but just what should be expected. It needs but to be stated, to be admitted that there are at least two elements necessary to successful musical performance—correct taste by which to form the standard and technical ability to attain or approximate to that standard. Now pray let us ask, how are those who have heard little or no music of high excellence and had no other teaching from masters in the art, to know good music from bad, or to realize their ideals in execution?

Thus it happens, that some performers, at church or concert, private or public, will, with great equanimity and very apparent self-satisfaction, engage in musical antics which would cover them with mortification and confusion if they had that gift which Burns prayed some power to give us. We refer to no particular examples, and would not injure the

feelings of the most susceptible; but we do beg of our home musicians to pause and inquire of themselves whether it is reasonable to suppose that music is unlike every other art, trade or science, and we may add, well directed labor. The art of handling the pick and the shovel is about the simplest we know of, but even that needs to be taught; how much more then must the noble art of music imply master and pupil.

We need not to be told of the great singers that have grown up in the smoke of a café chantante the hurly-burly of the military barracks or the seclusion of the farm. We know all about it. It is nevertheless the magnificent art, art acquired by infinite pains and ceaseless labor under relentless masters, that holds enchanted the thousands and thousands in every nation. Once more then, if this intense application is demanded of a Nilsen or a Campanini, how can the lower classes hope to escape paying the same sort of tribute to their art.

The first step in the pathway of progress must be the reduction to a minimum of that intolerable and ridiculous conceit which accompanies the musician almost as surely as pits do small pox. Honest criticism may cause you to wince, good friends, and what is worse, there may be but a grain of truth in it at times; but it is better to receive the slap and get over the smart once for all than go on making a fool of yourself in public the rest of your life. In the next place acquire by whatever means that are at hand, the faculty of discovering your own errors, and outdo the efforts of your best friends in the severity of your criticisms. And finally no one need console himself with the false assumption that we have good musicians in our midst who have never "taken lessons." If they are good then they have taken lessons, if not in one way then in another. They may not have had a paid teacher, but they have had the advantage of association with good musicians or have heard much good music or in some other way received that instruction without which it is no more possible to become a musician than it is to become a mathematician.

The elm beetle has already arrived and is unpleasantly conspicuous in garrets, bedrooms and every part of the house open to his intrusion. It is evident that his ravages will be more severe than last year. It is unfortunate that no adequate remedy has been devised for his destruction. The oil tanks, while accomplishing something in that direction can hardly be effective in the case of an insect with wings. Besides, the tanks themselves are quite certain in the end to be destroyed by the rowdies who infest our streets.

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Three Great Leaders!
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Can't be equalled anywhere under \$5.00, \$4.00 and \$5.00. Jersey Cloth Sashes at \$1.23 each. We are bound to take the lead in little boys goods, if low prices will do it.

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Regular price until now \$3.98, \$4.19, and \$4.48, as they include handsome mixtures, Checks, Chevrons and Wachusett Indigo Blues. You can begin to realize what a bargain we are offering.

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The Prices are as Follows:				
74c per yard,	Worth	90c	\$1.19	"
89c	"	\$1.00	1.25	"
98c	"	1.15	1.49	"
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While our prices are positively one-quarter less than what they could ordinarily be sold for if bought in a regular way, we guarantee every Parasol in our stock of this season's manufacture.

The following will speak for themselves. An examination of our stock will convince all of the truth of our statements. Don't miss your opportunity of securing a Sun-shade at these low prices.

We offer Black Serge Parasols—18 inch, 25c; 20 inch, 33c; 22 inch, 39c; 24 inch, 47c.

We offer at 25c—Misses' Cotton Coaching Parasols, in Blue and Pink, 16 inch, all colors—worth 55c.

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We offer at 83c—16 inch 10 rib Misses' Parasols, in neat plaid, a sorted colors, very heavy satin; cheap at \$1.25.

We offer at 95c—Misses' Heavy Pin Striped Satin Coaching Parasol, 16 inch, 10-rib frame; worth \$1.25.

We offer at 98c—Black all silk, in 20 and 22 inches, worth \$1.25.

We offer at 98c—Pongee Parasols, 10-rib, also 24-inch fine Mohair, Pongee Color, worth \$1.25 to \$1.50.

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